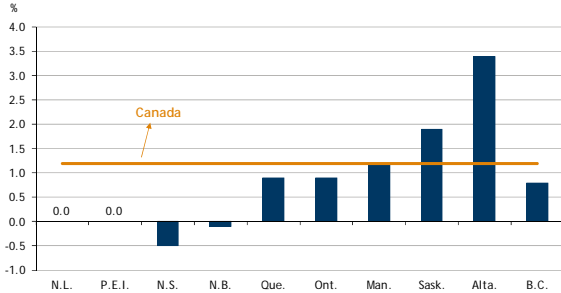
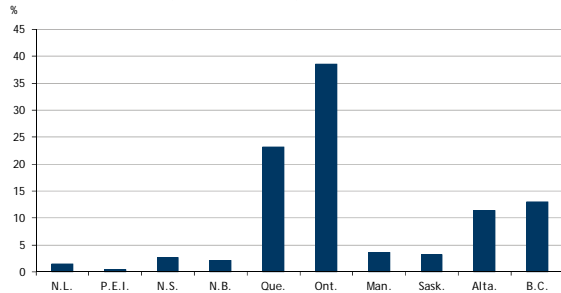


Population growth rate by province, year ending June 30, 2013



Population shares by province, July 1, 2013



Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics Research

Western Canada shows strongest population growth in the country

Today, Statistics Canada released new population estimates for Canada and the provinces based on the 2011 Census and adjusted for net census undercoverage (i.e. accounting for individuals absent on Census day and those enumerated more than once). The new estimates show that Canada's population was 35.2 million on July 1, 2013, up 1.2% from the same date in 2012. This represented the second fastest annual rate of increase of the past 20 years, and was at the higher end of the 0.8%-1.2% band that prevailed during that period.

Alberta population growing by leaps and bounds,...

On a provincial basis, population growth was strongest in the western part of the country in the past year. In fact, Alberta (3.4%), Saskatchewan (1.9%) and Manitoba (1.2%) were the only provinces where population growth matched or exceeded the national average. Ontario (0.9%), Quebec (0.9%) and British Columbia (0.8%) were slightly below the national average. Population in the remaining provinces was either flat – in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island – or declined – by 0.1% in New Brunswick and 0.5% in Nova Scotia.

...thanks to very favourable migration flows

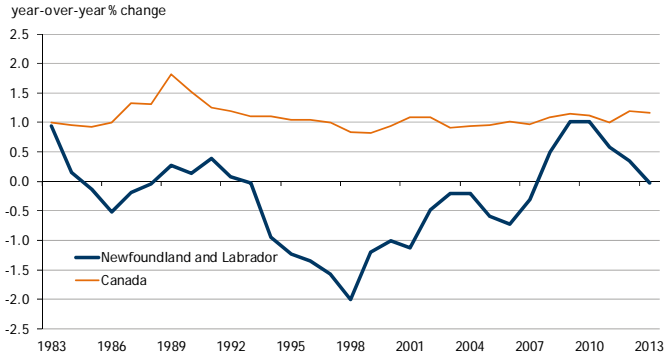
The stark regional differences largely reflected divergent trends in international and interprovincial migration, whereby the Western Provinces were significant net gainers while Atlantic region suffered net losses in interprovincial flows. The weak demographics in Atlantic Canada also reflected low natural increases (births minus deaths).

Majority of Canadians still live in Central Canada but the share of western population is increasing

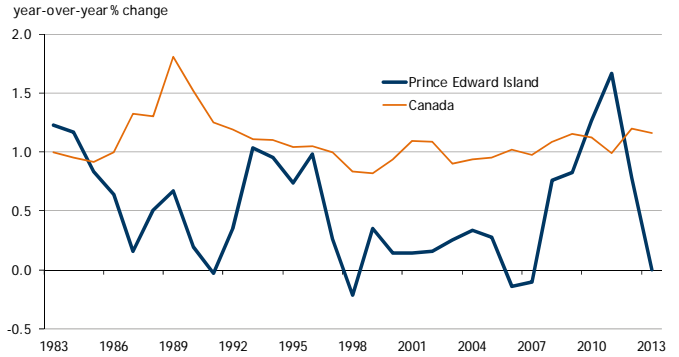
Population continues to be concentrated in Central Canada with Ontario and Quebec claiming shares of 38.5% and 23.2% of total, respectively, on July 1, 2013. Strong growth in British Columbia and Alberta during the past three decades contributed to a westward shift, however. These two provinces now account for 13.0% and 11.4% of the total (up from 11.5% and 9.4% 30 years ago). A more recent pickup in Saskatchewan (with a share of 3.2% at July 1, 2013), following years of declines, further accentuated this westward trend in the last six years. The weight of the four Atlantic Provinces, meanwhile, was reduced to 6.8% from 9.0% 30 years ago.

Population growth by province, year ending June 30, 1983 to 2013

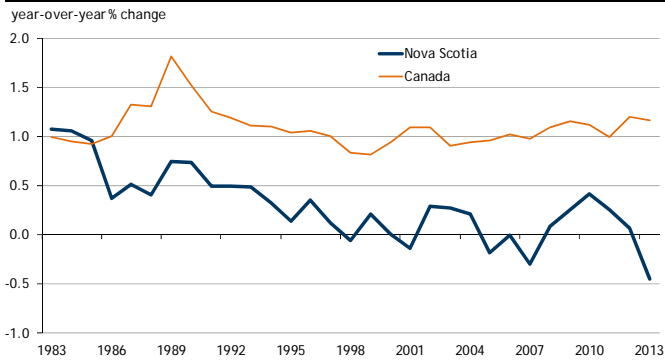
Newfoundland and Labrador vs. Canada



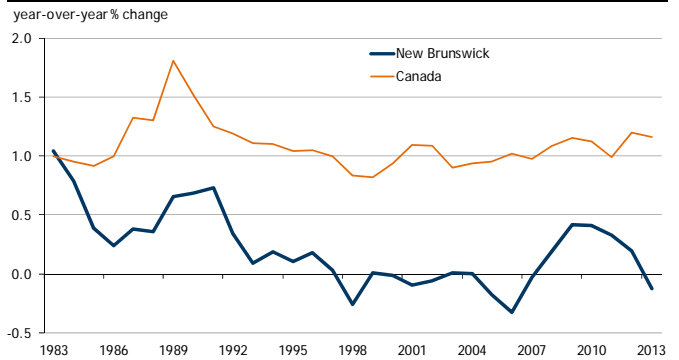
Prince Edward Island vs. Canada



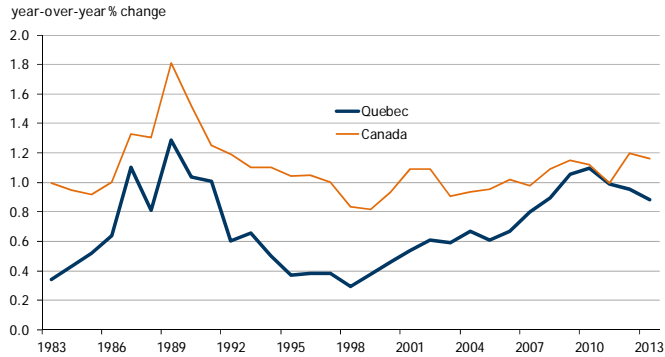
Nova Scotia vs. Canada



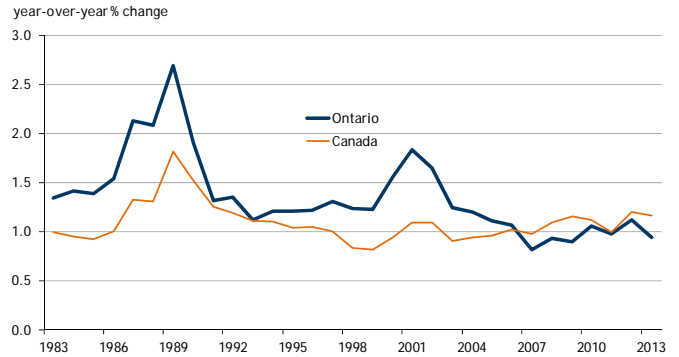
New Brunswick vs. Canada



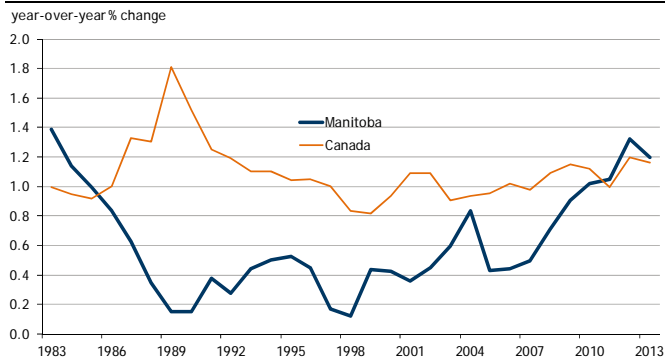
Quebec vs. Canada



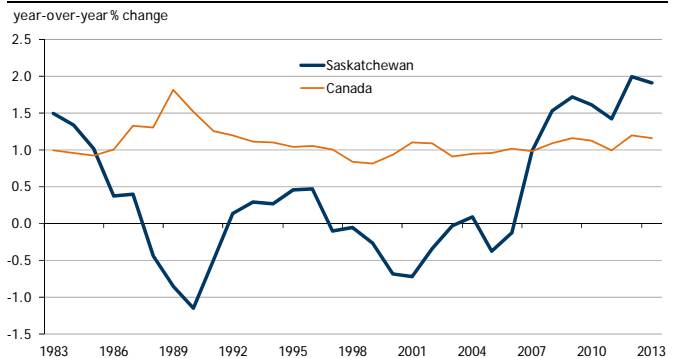
Ontario vs. Canada



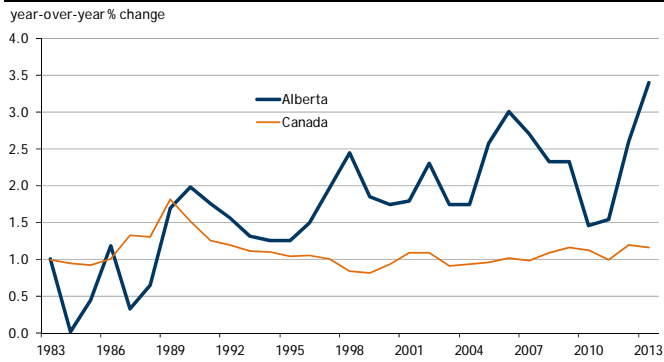
Manitoba vs. Canada



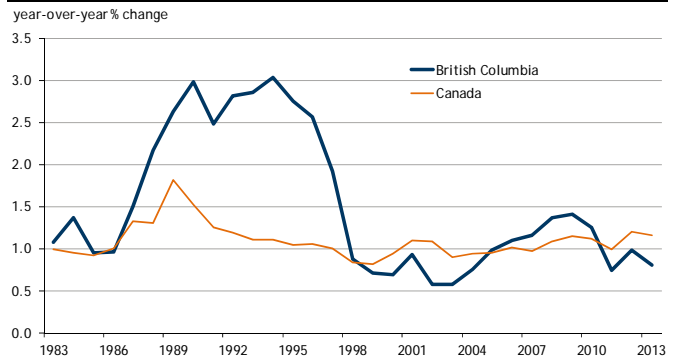
Saskatchewan vs. Canada



Alberta vs. Canada



British Columbia vs. Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics Research

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